

# Base buses provide free transportation

Lance Cpl. Adam Johnston



Ever since the first of its kind was introduced in 1827, buses have become instrumental in transporting children to and from school. In the United States alone, approximately 440,000 public school buses travel more than 4 billion miles daily and transport 24 million children. Without the bus, many kids would be stranded.

But school-age children aren't the only ones who find themselves stranded at home with no mode of transportation. Marines living in the barracks with no personally owned vehicle often find themselves in this very same situation. After all, Camp Lejeune is the largest Marine Corps base on the East Coast at 246-square miles. That's where the Base Bus System comes in.

"The buses are open to all military ID card holders," said Roy Cornell, the operations director for base motor transport. "At no cost to the Marines, we make regular stops at the exchange, medical, dental and a variety of other locations on base."

During the week, there are two buses that run. Base Bus #1 travels to and from Courthouse Bay while Base Bus #2 travels to and from Camp Geiger and Camp Johnson. On the weekends and holidays, Base Bus #3 travels to and from all three of these places.

"The drivers keep track of how many people enter the bus at each stop," said Cornell. "If the numbers are high enough to sustain the route, then the bus will continue to stop there."

In order to get a stop added to the existing bus schedule, Marines need to lobby their commanding officer to submit a letter, justifying the need for the addition, according to Cornell.

"All requests will be taken into consideration and forwarded up the proper chain of command," said Cornell.

Ultimately, the base bus system is just another example of how Camp Lejeune takes care of its Marines.

"Save your money," said Cornell. "Calling a taxi might be more convenient, but 10 bucks here and there can add up quickly."

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, you can e-mail Cornell at [Roy.Cornell@usmc.mil](mailto:Roy.Cornell@usmc.mil). For a copy of the base bus schedule, go online to the Camp Lejeune Web site at <http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil/mcb/baseBusSchedules.asp>.